

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00

PM-04 /052 R

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PM/SAS/SWINSHIP

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R 252044Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE KINSHASA

AMCONSUL DOUALA

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: EAIR, NI

SUBJECT:CESSNA AIRCRAFT ITINERARY

REF: LAGOS 9630 (NOTAL)

1. THREE CESSNA 150'S (LIGHT, TWO-SEATER, UNARMED, AIRCRAFT) MANUFACTURED IN THE US, ASSEMBLED IN FRANCE, AND ENROUTE TO KINSHASA FOR DELIVERY TO ZAIRE AIR FORCE, WERE SEIZED BY THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT JULY 12. THE PLANES AND PILOTS (TWO BRITISH, ONE FRENCH) WERE DETAINED FOR FIVE WEEKS BECAUSE OF ALLEGED FAILURE TO OBTAIN OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FROM FMG. AFTER ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR SENT NOTE OF APOLOGY, PLANES AND PILOTS RELEASED AUGUST 19. THEY WILL PROCEED SHORTLY TO KINSHASA VIA CAMEROON AND GABON.

2. IN EFFORT TO PRECLUDE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS OVERFLIGHT NIGERIAN AIRSPACE, CESSNA AIRCRAFT CO. INFORMED DEPT AUGUST 24 THAT BRITISH FERRYING COMPANY, MINDACRE LTD., IS OBTAINING OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR NEW ROUTE FROM REIMS TO KINSHASA WHICH COMPLETELY AVOIDS NIGERIAN AIRSPACE.

SECOND GROUP OF FOUR CESSNA 150 AIRCRAFT NOW SCHEDULED TO DEPART REIMS AUGUST 27 OR 28. ALL PILOTS EXPECTED TO BE UK OR FRENCH NATIONALS. ALL AIRCRAFT BEAR TEMPORARY US

RPT US REGISTRATION. AIRCRAFT ITINERARY IS REIMS TO PERPIGNAN, ALGIERS, EL-GOLEA, IN SALAH, TAMANRASSATT, AGADEZ, NDJAMENA, DOUALA, MOANDA, KINSHASA.

3. FOUR ADDITIONAL CESSNA PLANES WILL FOLLOW SAME CIRCUITOUS ROUTE IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS. DEPARTURE DATE FOR FINAL FOUR AIRCRAFT STILL UNDETERMINED. TOTAL AIRCRAFT, SHIPMENT TO ZAIRE INCLUDING THREE PLANES RECENTLY RELEASED BY NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES, WILL BE 15 PLANES. ALL WERE SOLD UNDER FMS AND ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE CESSNA AIRCRAFT CO. UNTIL DELIVERED TO ZAIRE.

4. WHEREAS THE BRITISH FERRYING FIRM IS TAKING FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING OVERFLIGHT/LANDING CLEARANCES, FOREGOING IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY, UNLESS YOU PERMITTED OFFICIAL USE

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CEIVE SPECIAL PROBLEMS. REPORT ANY COMPLICATIONS WHICH ARISE DURING THE FLIGHTS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND AMEMBASSY KINSHASA. KISSINGER

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